

REMARKS

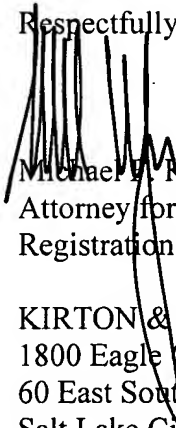
In the Office Action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office on September 16, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10 and 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis, et al. (5,307,523) in view of Frank (4,162,542), and rejected claims 20, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis in view of Frank and Haslbeck (4,348,775). The Examiner further objected to claims 2, 11, 19 and 22 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that claim 2, 11, 19 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim in any intervening claims. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that claim 25 is allowed. Accordingly, claims 2, 11, 19 and 22 have been written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims in any intervening claims. Additionally, applicant has cancelled claims 1, 10, 18 and 20 through 21 and has added new claim 26 which depends from currently amended claim 22. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim set as provided herein overcomes all rejections and objections made by the Examiner in the Office Action.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the amendments made herein do not add new matter and that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

DATED this 16 day of December, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,


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